

S-474  
John Henry Brittingham House  
Crisfield vicinity  
Private

c. 1888

Standing near the intersection of Main Street Extended and “Freedomtown” Road is this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling erected in 1888 by John Henry Brittingham, who purchased this lot in April of that year for \$175.00. John Henry Brittingham operated a store at the intersection as well as conducting a barber shop. Although the store has long disappeared, his two-story, single-pile frame house remains in a good state of preservation and helps define the historic black community formerly known as Freemantown. The name of the road was corrupted to “Freedomtown” when the county instituted the 911 emergency medical service system. The house and lot remain in Brittingham family hands.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-474

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
- 2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-474

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 3491 Freedomtown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Annie M. Brittingham % Agatha Jones

street & number 3491 Freedomtown Road telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code MD 21817

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 70

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 438

city, town Princess state Anne 21853

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John Henry Brittingham house stands at 3491 Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, east of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1888, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling is supported by a low masonry foundation covered with sheet metal. The exterior of the house is sheathed with asphalt shingles over plain weatherboards, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with a layer of asphalt shingles as well. Attached to the back of the main block is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking six-over-one sash windows. The front door is partially glazed, and the doorway is topped by a single-pane transom. A series of three evenly spaced six-over-one sash windows light the second floor. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Rising through the roof is an interior, stuccoed brick chimney stack.

The north and south gable ends are largely alike with single six-over-one sash windows on each floor, and a small squarish window pierces the gable end. The eave is extended with short returns at the base of the roof.

Attached to the back side of the main block is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing covered with asphalt shingles and a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Six-over-one sash windows light the first floor, and small six-pane windows illuminate the half story above. The kitchen is extended on the north and south sides by shed roofed additions.

A full interior inspection was not possible, although it was evident that a center enclosed stair rises between the two front rooms. Plain board surrounds frame the interior door openings.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing near the intersection of Main Street Extended and "Freedomtown" Road is this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling erected in 1888 by John Henry Brittingham, who purchased this lot in April of that year for \$175.00 (Somerset County Land Record, HFL 6/75) John Henry Brittingham operated a store at the intersection as well as conducting a barber shop. Although the store has long ago disappeared the his two-story, single-pile frame house remains in a good state of preservation and helps define the historic black community formerly known as Freemantown. The name of the road was corrupted to "Freedomtown" when the county instituted the 911 emergency medical service system. The house and lot remain in Brittingham family hands.

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## Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**c**

D

E | | | | |

F

G |

H | | | | | | | | | |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
AL	001	ALBANY	001
AL	003	ALBUQUERQUE	003
AL	005	ALBUQUERQUE	005
AL	007	ALBUQUERQUE	007
AL	009	ALBUQUERQUE	009
AL	011	ALBUQUERQUE	011
AL	013	ALBUQUERQUE	013
AL	015	ALBUQUERQUE	015
AL	017	ALBUQUERQUE	017
AL	019	ALBUQUERQUE	019
AL	021	ALBUQUERQUE	021
AL	023	ALBUQUERQUE	023
AL	025	ALBUQUERQUE	025
AL	027	ALBUQUERQUE	027
AL	029	ALBUQUERQUE	029
AL	031	ALBUQUERQUE	031
AL	033	ALBUQUERQUE	033
AL	035	ALBUQUERQUE	035
AL	037	ALBUQUERQUE	037
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AL	179	ALBUQUERQUE	179
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AL	183	ALBUQUERQUE	183
AL	185	ALBUQUERQUE	185
AL	187	ALBUQUERQUE	187

state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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organization Private Consultant date 6/27/95

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town	Westover	state	Maryland	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND COMMUNITY DROPOUT  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

S-474  
JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE  
3491 Freedomtown Road  
Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland  
Chain of title

70/438                      Sabra Brittingham  
   to

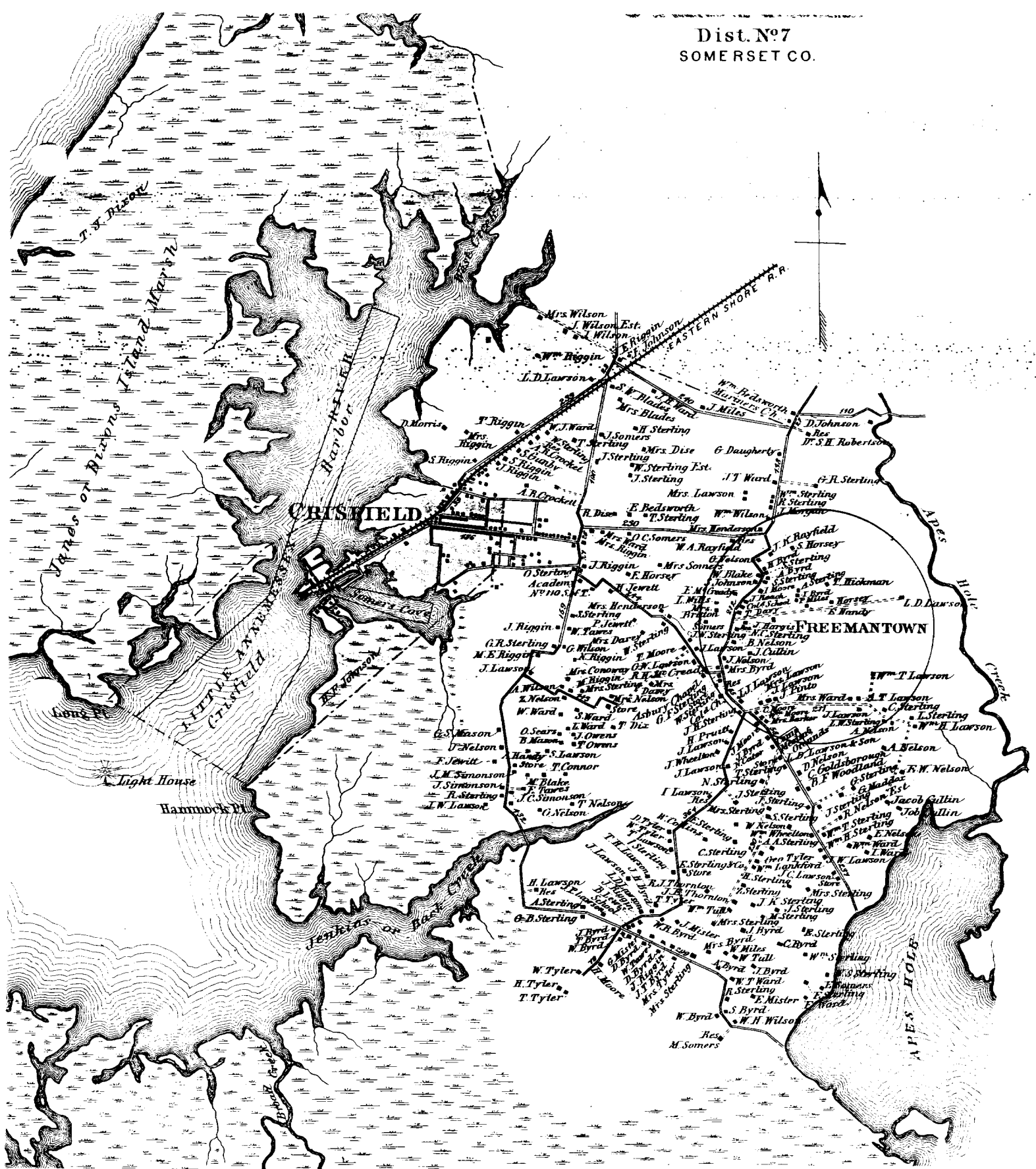
4/20/1916                  Annie Brittingham  
   \$462.96

WJS 67/68                  Elwood Sterling, Sheriff  
   to

4/20/1914                  Sabra Brittingham

HFL 6/75                    Noah C. Sterling  
   Mary Sterling  
   to

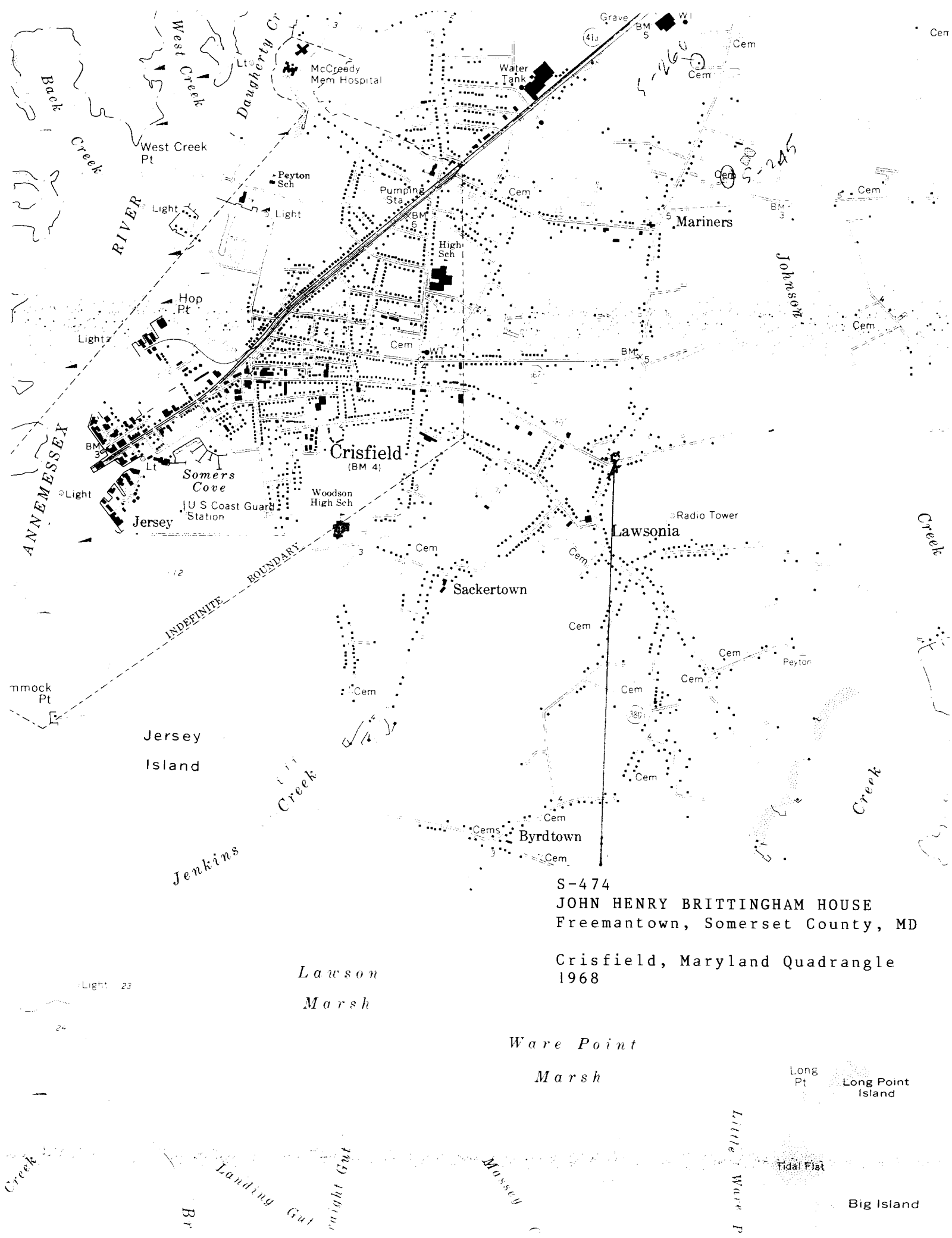
4/20/1888                  John Henry Britman (Brittingham)  
   \$175.00    Southwest corner of a lot of ground  
   belonging to Somerset County for  
   colored school  
   3/4 acre



S-474  
JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas 1877





S-474  
JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE  
Freemantown, Somerset County, MD

Crisfield, Maryland Quadrangle  
1968

Lawson  
Marsh

Ware Point  
Marsh

Long Pt  
Long Point  
Island

Tidal Flat

Big Island

Br

Landing Gut

Wright Gut

Mosey

Little Ware P

Creek



S 474

John H. BARTON House

Freemantown, PRISTON vicinity,

Somerset County, Maryland

6/95, Paul Toward, PRISTON

MD 1454, PRISTON

1/2



S-474

John H. B. [unclear] [unclear]

Greenland, CRISTO VICA [unclear]

Summer [unclear] [unclear]

Summer [unclear] [unclear]

6/05, Paul [unclear] [unclear]

Net. / [unclear] [unclear]

2/2